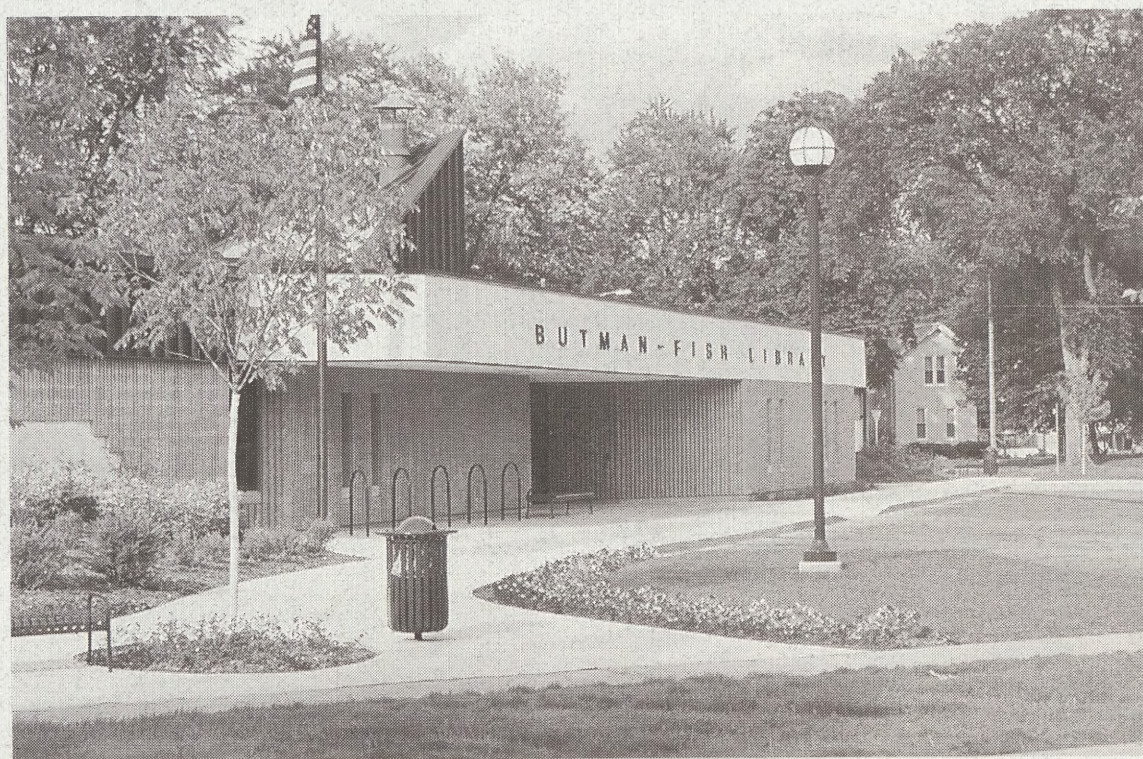


PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF SAGINAW

BUTMAN-FISH LIBRARY

1916-1998

*Celebrating 82 Years of Service
On the Occasion of Its Complete Renovation*



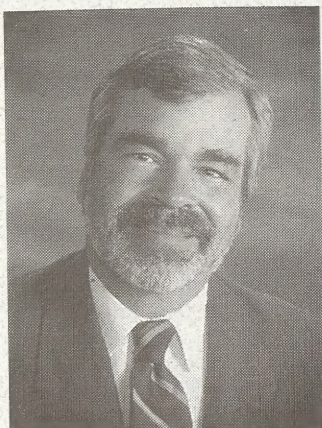


LIBRARY COMMISSION

Standing (left to right): Joan Brownell, Mary Washington, Tina Gutierrez and Beatriz Juárez
Seated: Reed Phillips, Carol Selby, Bruce L. Dalrymple

Norman L. Maas, Library Director

**PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF SAGINAW
SAGINAW, MICHIGAN
1998**



Bruce L. Dalrymple



Norman L. Maas

PREFACE

The renovation of the Butman-Fish Library has been a work of joy for those of us associated with the Public Libraries of Saginaw. This busy community library has been transformed into a modern high tech library, with 31 computer workstations to connect users to the wealth of information available via the Internet. In addition to a major electrical and telecommunications upgrade, Butman-Fish has new carpeting, furnishings, book shelving and an upgraded air conditioning and humidification system. Special attention has been paid to handicapped accessibility. The exterior lighting, signage and landscaping improvements make Butman-Fish a much more attractive and visible neighborhood center. Butman-Fish Library is virtually a new library inside and out. We hope that people will find it an exciting place to visit and use the many services it offers to the community.

Planning for the Butman-Fish renovation began in early 1997, with a design team from the library administration, the Spicer Group, Library Design Associates, Inc. and Pollack Design Associates. Wobig Construction Company, Inc. began exterior renovations in September, 1997. Interior renovations were completed by Serenus Johnson & Son Construction Company, Inc. in May - July, 1998.

This project could never have been accomplished without the support of the community. The renovation, which cost approximately \$750,000, has been funded by the tax payers of the library district. We have been tremendously grateful for the support that Saginaw gives its libraries. The overwhelming approval that Saginaw voters gave the library's request for a millage increase in 1994 has laid the foundation for substantial service improvements throughout our libraries. The Public Libraries of Saginaw today has excellent book collections and a revitalized program of services for children and families. We are moving forward with plans to help our community residents effectively use the tremendous resources of the information superhighway.

This publication gives an informal overview of the history of Butman-Fish Library and highlights some of the improvements made during the renovation. We hope that library supporters and users of Butman-Fish Library will enjoy it as a memento of what the library has meant to them. Throughout the years, the Butman-Fish Library staff has touched the lives of many residents of our community. With this renovation, we will continue to do so for years to come.

Bruce L. Dalrymple, Chairman, Saginaw Library Commission
Norman L. Maas, Director, Public Libraries of Saginaw



Myron Butman and nephew

HISTORY OF THE BUTMAN-FISH LIBRARY

Public library services in Saginaw's west side began in 1836 when the first school in the city was built. Space was provided in the school for a public library, which was begun with donated books. After some difficult beginnings, the west side public library was reestablished in 1857. During the next sixty years, the west side public library was located in several sites, including Central School, Arthur Hill High School and John Moore School. It was operated by the Union School District.

In 1913, William S. Fish donated \$30,000 to build a library as a memorial to his wife, Mary, and her father, Myron Butman.

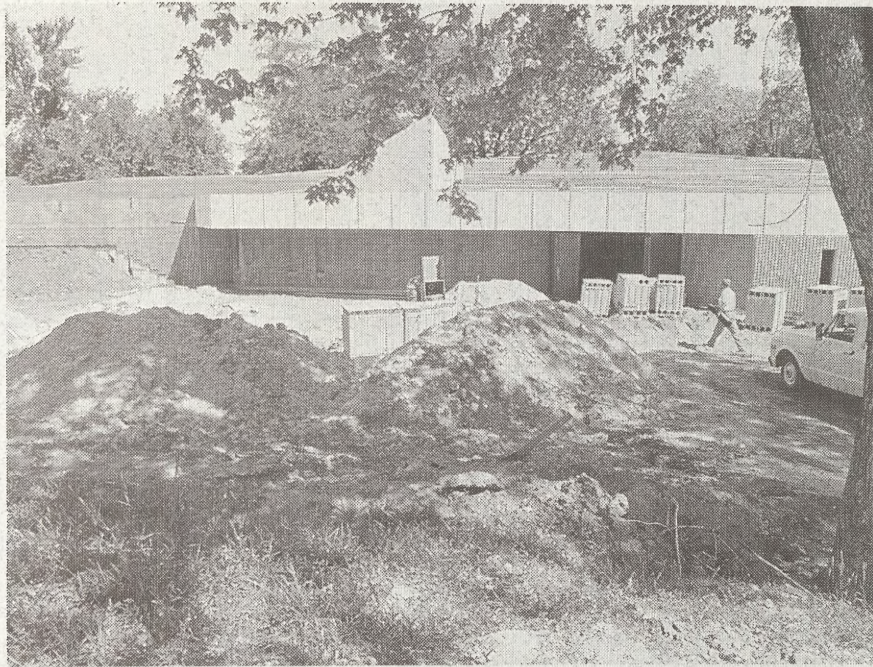
"Gentlemen – I have in mind some kind of memorial for my late wife, Mary P. Fish, and her father, the late Myron Butman, to be known as the 'Butman-Fish Memorial' and am inclined to do so in the way of a library building for the Union School District..."

Located on the corner of Harrison and Hancock Streets, the Butman-Fish Memorial Library served the public from 1916 - 1978. By the mid-1970's the original building was overcrowded and in poor repair. The Library Commission and the Saginaw School District made plans to replace it with a much larger facility.

The present Butman-Fish Library opened in January, 1979, and serves as an active community library with an extensive program of children's services. In 1998, Butman-Fish was extensively renovated to accommodate modern library technology, make general building repairs and make the library more handicapped accessible.



Butman-Fish Memorial Library, 1916-1978



Construction of the New Library, 1978

Photo courtesy of The Saginaw News

Architect: Toshach and Sobczak Assoc., Inc.

Cost of Building and Furnishings: \$660,000 • Size: 15,600 square feet

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

During World War I, Butman-Fish was closed for several weeks because of a fuel shortage and the influenza epidemics. Books were collected to be sent to soldiers' camps and hospitals.

In 1926, following the consolidation of Saginaw's school districts, the Butman-Fish Memorial Library, Hoyt Public Library and the East Side Public Library were merged as the Public Libraries of Saginaw.

During the Depression, staff salaries were cut by 50%, but they were always paid on time and in cash. No new books were bought. Butman-Fish closed on Thursdays.

During World War II, the Victory Book Drive, under the direction of Mrs. Emilie Kahan, reference librarian at Butman-Fish, was responsible for collecting 3,484 usable books.

In 1972, Butman-Fish Library and Claytor Library were closed and Hoyt Library's hours were reduced because of the Public Libraries of Saginaw's financial situation. The library's first operating millage was approved by Saginaw voters in November, 1972.

In 1979, the new Butman-Fish Library opened at its present location. Constructing and furnishing the library cost \$660,000, with most of the funding being provided by a federal public works grant.

In 1998, Butman-Fish Library was extensively renovated to accommodate modern library technology, make general building repairs and make the library more handicapped accessible.



Children's Book Week, 1934

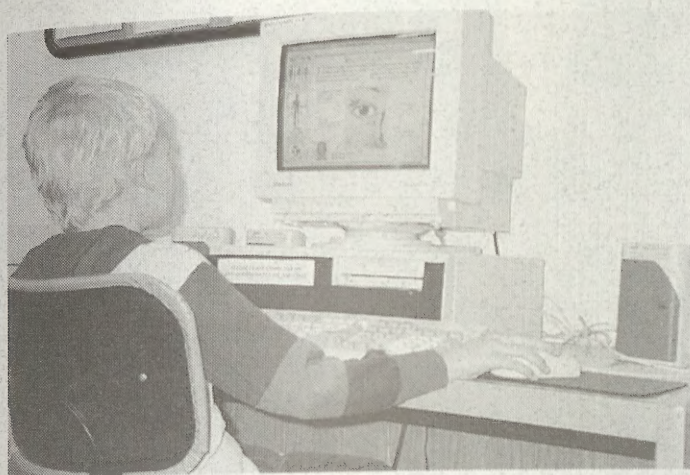


Piecemaker's Quilt Guild donated quilt in 1994



Library service in the early 1970's

Photo courtesy of The Saginaw News



Computers for children were added in the 1990's

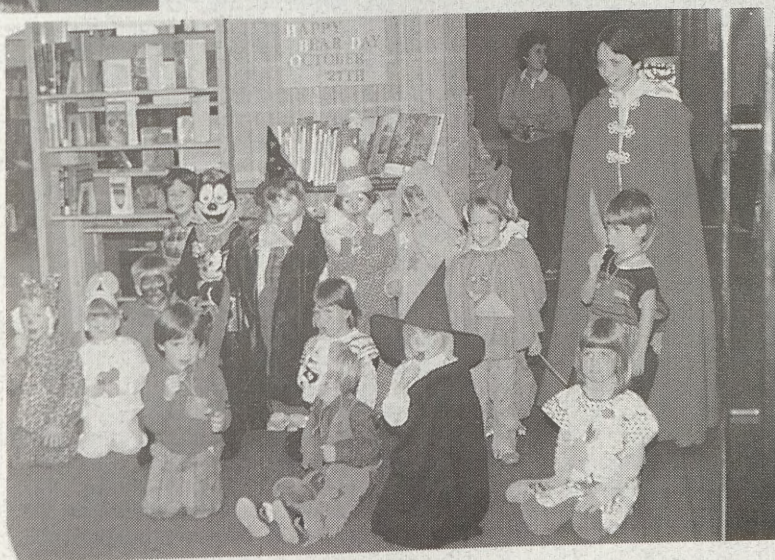


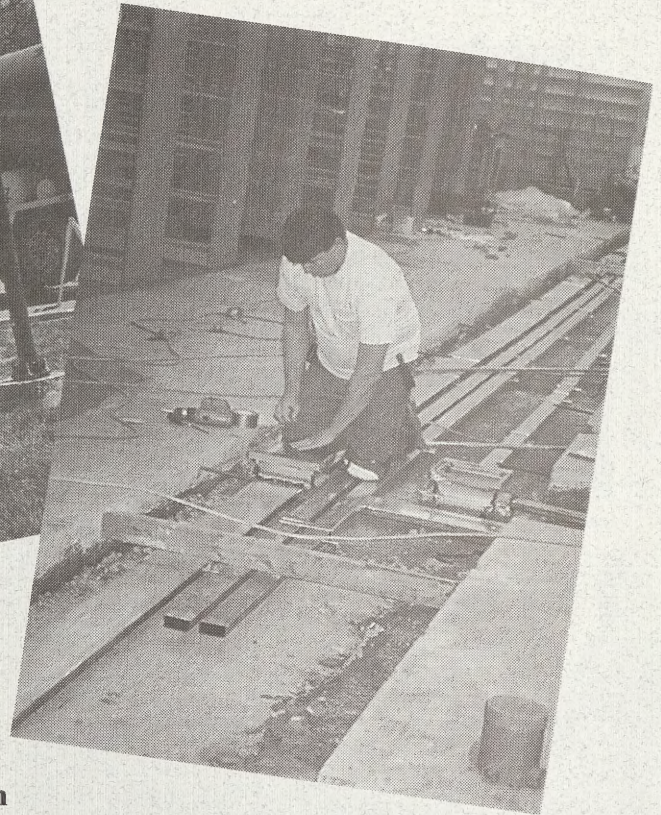
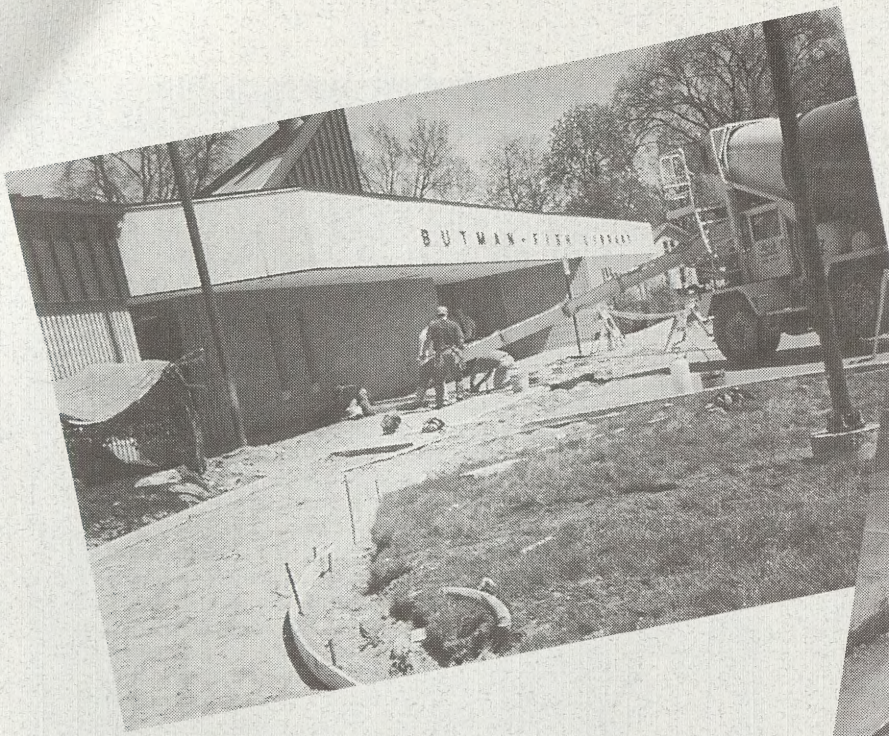
Photo courtesy of The Saginaw News

Until the 1990's, every child needed to learn about the card catalog



Over the years, thousands of children have enjoyed special programs at Butman-Fish





Design Team

Spicer Group

Gary Warnke, P.E.

Library Design Associates, Inc.

Richard de Bear and Janet McClintock

Pollack Design Associates

Peter Pollack

Public Libraries of Saginaw

Norman L. Maas, Library Director

Elinor Saunders, Branch Head

Design and Project Management

Interior Design

Landscape Architecture

General Contractors

Serenus Johnson & Son Construction Company, Inc.

Wobig Construction Company, Inc.

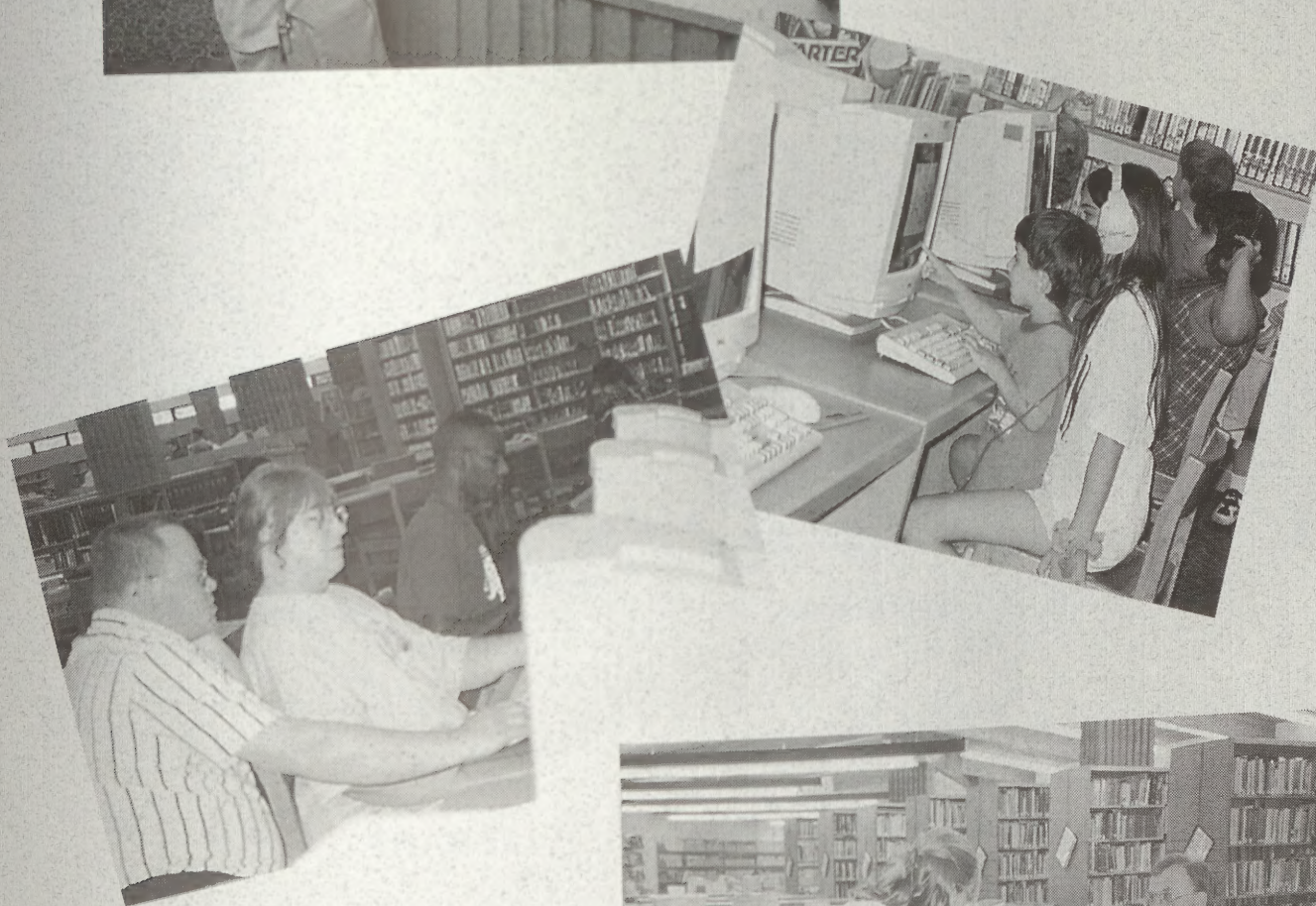
1998 RENOVATION HIGHLIGHTS

- Electrical and telecommunications systems upgrade to give better access to digital information resources
- Thirty-one public computer workstations
- New carpeting, some new furnishings and the installation of additional book shelving
- Upgraded air conditioning and new humidification system
- Meeting room improvements including teleconferencing ability
- Self-opening handicapped accessible front doors; restrooms redesigned for handicapped access
- Improved exterior lighting, sidewalks, landscaping and signage

1998 RENOVATIONS



*New
Attractive
Public
Service
Areas*



*People
of all
ages
use the
computers*

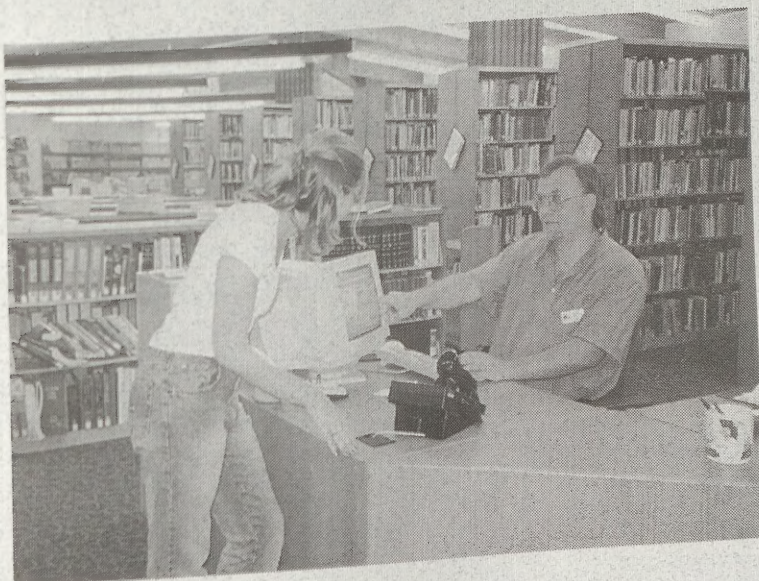




Photo courtesy of The Saginaw News

The First Grade Teas celebrate first graders learning to read



Friends sort books for the annual book sale



Friends book sales attract customers from all over the region

FRIENDS OF BUTMAN-FISH LIBRARY

The Friends of Butman-Fish Library have supported library activities since they were first organized in the early 1980's. They volunteer for special library events. Their annual Book Sale, held the first weekend in March, attracts book lovers from throughout the region. Over the decades, the Friends have donated many thousands of dollars worth of equipment and furniture to the library. They also underwrite special library programs, such as the First Grade Teas which celebrate first graders learning to read.



BUTMAN-FISH LIBRARY STAFF

Elinor Saunders, Branch Head

Pictured (left to right):

Front Row: Laura Pache, Gigi Hanley, Sarah Rattray,
Bernice Szczypka, Janet Turner, Lee Anne Haupricht
Back Row: Julie Oberson, LaRunja Frills, Nancy Beckert
Elinor Saunders, Bill O'Brien

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Additional copies may be requested from: Administrative Office,
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E-Mail: saginaw@vlc.lib.mi.us • Website: <http://www.saginaw.lib.mi.us>

HEADS OF BUTMAN-FISH LIBRARY

Anna Benjamin
1899-1922

John S. Cleavinger
1922-1924

Dorothy Teare
1924-1927

Helen Hempstead
1927-1930

Mary Silverthorn
1930-1935

Helen Hempstead
1935-1937

Ruth Anderson
1937-1943

Irene Mischler
1943-1951

Dorothy Fell
1951-1958

Helen Hempstead
1958-1961

Barbara Gaertner
1961-1975

David Curtis
1975-1978

Greg Lubelski
1979-1981

Elinor Saunders
1981-

PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF SAGINAW

Butman-Fish Library

1716 Hancock St.
Saginaw, MI 48602
(517) 799-9160

Archer A. Claytor Library

1410 N. Twelfth St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
(517) 753-5591

Hoyt Main Library

505 Janes St.
Saginaw, MI 48607
(517) 755-0904

Wickes Library

1713 Hess St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
(517) 752-3821

Zauel Memorial Library

3100 N. Center St.
Saginaw, MI 48603
(517) 799-2771

T.D.D. (517) 755-9831

www.saginaw.lib.mi.us

Administrative Office

Norman L. Maas, Library Director

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